

A TRIBUTE TO ABU BEKR COURT
NO. 74

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Abu Bekr Court No. 74 for its long history of community involvement through activities and sponsorships.

Abu Bekr Court No. 74 has participated in all of the programs and projects of the Imperial court, Daughters of Isis. Individual Court members have been actively involved in numerous community volunteer activities on behalf of the organization.

The projects supported by Abu Bekr Court No. 74 and its members include: homeless women's shelters, a hospital for children with special needs, gifts of love baskets to elderly and needy community residents, donations to local community churches and the NAACP. Under the leadership of their Illustrious Commandress, Dt. Shirley Holliday, Abu Bekr Court has been in partnership with Tilden Hall by sponsoring multiple clothing drives.

The Court has served in many capacities throughout the community. They attended a World Day of Worship at Berean Baptist Church and gave a sizable monetary donation to their Drum Line Youth group, while also raising hundreds of dollars to participate in the Breast Cancer Walk. The Court has also donated school supplies to several schools in Brooklyn and Long Island, as well as donating over 200 knit hats to cancer patients through the American Cancer Society.

Abu Bekr Court No. 74 is pleased to have had 57 Daughters lead this Court and serve as Illustrious Commandress since 1949. As part of Abu Bekr Court's great history, two of

their Daughters served the Imperial Court Daughters of Isis as Imperial Commandress, which is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Daughter. Dt. Phyllis McKoy who was elected and served as Imperial Commandress in 1984 and now Dt. Ruth Mayfield Ellerbe who was elected and installed as Imperial Commandress of the Imperial Court Daughters of Isis on August 18, 2011.

The Court looks forward to continuing their long tradition of service to the community and to remain supportive to the Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the community achievements that Abu Bekr Court No. 74 has made in Brooklyn and throughout New York City.

**PANDEMIC AND ALL-HAZARDS
PREPAREDNESS REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2011**

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2405, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2011. I am pleased to report that this legislation represents a bipartisan effort to make certain that our nation is prepared to successfully manage the effects of natural disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, and acts of bioterrorism.

The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act reauthorizes and makes minor—but important—improvements to programs and activities first established in the 2004 Project Bioshield Act and the 2006

Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, also known as PAHPA. Let me highlight three provisions that deserve particular attention.

First, with respect to the Food and Drug Administration, we took great care to ensure that the agency is focusing on the medical countermeasures—or products that combat chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear agents—of highest importance. As we all know, if everything is given priority, then nothing is truly a priority. H.R. 2405 requires FDA to work with industry on industry-submitted regulatory management plans for prioritized countermeasures to facilitate scientific exchanges between the FDA and product sponsors to streamline our ability to make these products available.

Second, the legislation makes improvements to the nation's blueprint for public health preparedness and response activities that will enhance the ability of the health care system to respond to mass casualty emergencies.

Finally, H.R. 2405 continues investment in state and local public health departments to ensure we have the requisite infrastructure to respond to public health threats.

I'd like to thank Congressman ROGERS and Congressman GREEN—the sponsors of the legislation—for their hard work on H.R. 2405. I'd also like to recognize Congresswoman MYRICK, Congresswoman ESHOO, and Congressman MARKEY who contributed a great deal to the Committee's work on this bill.

I understand that Senator BURR and Senator CASEY have recently introduced comparable legislation in the Senate. I look forward to working with our Senate colleagues on this issue and sending final PAHPRA legislation to the President for his signature.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.